



**MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 18, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik, Mike Feldmann, Gina Joyce, and Deirdre Kvale

Staff Present: City Administrator: Scott Weske; City Clerk Moeller; City Attorney Thames; Public Works Director Diercks

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR'S COMMENTS – LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

Prior to the Council meeting, the EDA met to interview a candidate for a vacancy on that Board. The Council also met in a work session following the EDA meeting during which the Council interviewed two candidates for a Planning Commission vacancy.

Mayor Miner reported that the Orono Lions Club's Snowball Open fundraiser is coming up soon and will be held in front of Birch's on the Lake.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Joyce, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of January 4, 2021 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Adopt Resolution No. 2022-05 Approving Issuance of Special Event Permit #S2022-01 for the 'Super Sunday Fat Tire Ride' to be Held Sunday, February 13, 2022; and to Authorize the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Unit to Permit the Event
- D. Reappoint, Promote and Appoint Candidates to Long Lake Fire Department Officer and Coordinator Positions

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Joyce, to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Appointment of a Planning Commission Member

City Clerk Moeller reported that Commissioner John Hughes opted not to seek reappointment at the expiration of his term, creating a vacancy on the Planning Commission for residents to apply to serve a term effective January 2022 through December 31, 2025. Applications were solicited and the City had two applicants for the position, Tim Hultmann and Lori Goodsell, who were both interviewed in the Council work session held prior to the Council meeting.

Mayor Miner expressed his appreciation to John Hughes who had served on the Planning Commission for a number of terms.

Council member Dyvik commented that he appreciates all the service Tim Hultmann has given to the City in many capacities and would like to see him continue to serve on the EDA. He added that he would like to see somebody new have an opportunity to serve on the Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Kvale, to adopt Resolution No. 2022-06 appointing Lori Goodsell to the position of Planning Commission member.

Mayor Miner indicated that he would echo the comments made by Council member Dyvik. He recognized that Tim Hultmann has done a great job in the City and has more history with Long Lake than anyone else currently in the room. He stated that he feels appointing Ms. Goodsell to serve on the Planning Commission with Mr. Hultmann being able to continue to serve on the EDA will be a win/win for the City.

Ayes: all.

Appointment of Economic Development Authority Resident At-Large Member

Moeller stated that due to the expiration of Lori Goodsell's term as a resident at-large member of the Economic Development Authority (EDA), the City currently has one opening on the EDA for a resident to serve a term effective through December 31, 2023. Applications were solicited and an application was received from Sahand Elmtalab. The EDA had interviewed Mr. Elmtalab prior to the Council meeting and recommended the City Council approve his appointment to the Board.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Joyce, to adopt Resolution No. 2022-07 appointing Sahand Elmtalab to the position of Economic Development Authority resident at-large member.
Ayes: all.

Reschedule February 1, 2022 City Council Meeting

Moeller explained that the Council's next scheduled meeting falls on February 1, 2022. As that is the same date as Minnesota's precinct caucuses, City government meetings cannot be held on that evening and the Council meeting would need to be rescheduled to an alternate date that week.

Mayor and Council discussed their availability and determined Monday, January 31 would be the preferred alternative.

A motion was made by Feldmann, seconded by Dyvik, to reschedule the February 1, 2022 City Council meetings to be held on Monday, January 31, 2022. Ayes: all.

Moeller advised that the intent of the work session on January 31, 2022 will be to discuss goals for the upcoming year. She recognized that it is likely Council member Joyce will be unable to attend that meeting as her child's due date is near, and encouraged Council member Joyce to pass along her feedback electronically and she will bring that information to the meeting. Staff will also make

sure to keep Council member Joyce informed about the discussion that evening. In preparation for the work session, staff will take a look at what goals may have already been accomplished that can be removed from the list, but noted that there may be others that should be removed such as the addition of gaga ball pits at Dexter Park.

OTHER BUSINESS

Engineering Consultant Fees – Council member Feldmann recalled he'd asked previously about the change in engineering fees due to switching to a more senior engineer at WSB. Administrator Weske replied that he had contacted WSB and reviewed one of their last bills. The new rate will begin as of January 1, 2022. Council member Feldmann asked that once staff has a handle on how those fees will look with a more senior engineer, he would like more information on the rate structure.

Damaged Light Pole – Council member Dyvik reported that another light pole in the downtown had been struck by a vehicle, which means that there are two down at this time. Weske confirmed that the City had ordered two replacement poles the last time one was hit. Council member Dyvik suggested that the City should plan to have one on hand for the future. Weske explained that staff had intended to provide for a spare by purchasing two the last time a pole was damaged, but now with this latest incident, there will no longer be a spare pole. There may also be a question of whether the City should have a light pole in this location since it seems to be frequently hit. Council member Dyvik commented that he does not like the idea of not having a light there because the light was originally put there for safety; however, he is in favor of having a spare pole on hand. Weske indicated that he would talk to Public Works Director Diercks tomorrow about how much lead time he thinks there should be on ordering an additional pole. Council member Dyvik asked how many light poles have been hit. Weske responded that he believes the number is up to four or five now. Council member Kvale questioned whether there would be a way to put up some sort of concrete barrier so that the barrier would be struck rather than the light pole. Weske replied that he did not think something sturdy of that nature could be put in front of the pole for liability reasons, and any barrier would likely need to be something that would give or release if it was hit. Council member Dyvik commented that he really likes the light poles as they can feature garland, lighting, banners, and hanging flower baskets. Council member Kvale wondered if anyone knew the reason that the poles kept getting hit. Weske recalled that one was damaged due to texting while driving, one driver was swerving to miss a deer, and one was damaged in icy weather with a driver traveling too fast. He noted that he had not yet seen the Police report for the most recent hit, but all the others have been hit by people from out of town.

Regional Mayors Meeting - Mayor Miner noted that he had attended a Regional Mayors meeting where the main discussion topics focused on housing in the Twin Cities, lack thereof, and how a lack of housing in general is growing to an epidemic proportion according to the presenter. He indicated that there was a special meeting afterward with area Police Chiefs and the Hennepin and Ramsey County attorneys to talk about crime rates in the Twin Cities and prosecutions, or in some cases, the lack thereof. He observed that thankfully Long Lake has not had to deal with the level of car jackings and robberies that many of the other suburbs have started experiencing.

Northwest Hennepin County League of Municipalities Meeting - Last week, Mayor Miner had attended a Northwest Hennepin County League of Municipalities meeting where they received some updates on what the legislature has been up to and what is on the horizon for this session. He stated that on the way to the meeting, he heard that COVID-19 cases are expected to peak on the coming Sunday. He noted that some communities have declared emergencies within the last month or so because there have been some cases amongst their Councils.

Virtual Meetings – Council member Joyce questioned whether there was any desire from the Council or staff to move to virtual meetings because other area Councils appear to be moving back to holding meetings virtually. She noted that if the meetings were held virtually, it would be more likely that she could attend the meetings after her child's birth. Moeller explained that there is a formal process that needs to happen in order to do that. Mayor Miner must issue a Proclamation declaring a Local State of Emergency and then the Council has to meet within three days after the Proclamation to adopt a Resolution taking up the Local State of Emergency before remote meetings could be held due to the epidemic. The Council is not able to simply switch to holding meetings virtually without a Local State of Emergency declaration. Council member Joyce stated that in speaking with an acquaintance of hers, she was under the impression that because the WHO still considers there to be a global pandemic emergency, that there would not necessarily be a Local State of Emergency declaration required. Moeller noted that City Attorney Thames' advice to staff previously was to follow the letter of Minnesota law which would be to adopt a Local State of Emergency. Weske reminded the Council that up until the pandemic, the Council was never supposed to meet in a manner that was not in the public arena. There are ways to attend a meeting remotely, but you have to actually be in a public location, and that location would need to be publicly noticed. The Council discussed the details around what is involved in a declaration of Local State of Emergency for it to be done legally.

OYHA Use of Holbrook Park Facilities - Moeller gave an update on discussions with the Orono Youth Hockey Association and their interest in using Holbrook Park skating facilities. They have not returned the draft of the agreement that staff has been working on regarding their intent to provide the City with an ice resurfacer and for their use of Holbrook Park. In speaking with the association representative she's been working with, she mentioned to them that there are other options for this season because at this point she does not think an agreement will be completed before the ice season ends. The rink usage season is often done by mid to late February depending on the weather. She explained that she had mentioned other options to them including renting ice time two nights a week as long as the warming house is open to the public during their use time and that they would be responsible to make sure it is clear again before they leave. That is the path the association chose, they have made reservations for Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and they have agreed to allow members of the public to use the warming house when it is open during their usage times. Signage has been posted so that general skaters will be informed of this reservation. In addition to this agreement for ice time, they have discussed continuing talks on a potential agreement now rather than waiting to start up again next winter. The hope is that staff can continue working with the OYHA to come to an arrangement well in advance of the next skating season. She explained that part of the reason the City had not solicited actively for warming house staff was because they thought there was going to be a partnership with the association, which turned out not to happen in a timely manner. She mentioned that she is intending to contact a former staffer to see if they are interested in picking up some hours at the rink.

Industrial Districts Planning Commission Discussion – Moeller indicated that at the Planning Commission's upcoming meeting, they will be reviewing some proposed changes and recommendations in the industrial districts as discussed by Council previously. A mailing will be going out tomorrow to the owners of the properties in the industrial districts inviting them to a 'neighborhood style' discussion during the Planning Commission meeting to learn more about the proposed changes.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator